

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 – 18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) An underdrain block for a filter system comprising:
a hollow plastic housing;

the housing comprising a top wall, a bottom wall, and ends walls and side walls connecting the top wall to the bottom wall, the bottom wall forming two lateral rows of support legs to provide for the passage of fluid;

the top wall defining an opening for receiving ~~fill~~ a fill material, the top wall forming a ridge surrounding the opening;

a non-porous lid for sealing the opening in the top wall, the lid comprising a top, a bottom, and a peripheral edge, the peripheral edge comprising a u-shaped rim;

the u-shaped rim comprising a locking means to tightly fit over the ridge so that that the rim interlocks with the ridge.

20. (canceled)

21. (original) The underdrain block of claim 19 wherein the ridge of the underdrain block comprises a flange perpendicular to the top surface and directed downward into the opening, and the rim comprises a size to fit tightly over the flange so that the rim interlocks with the flange.

22. (currently amended) The underdrain block of claim ~~19~~ 21 wherein the u-shaped rim defines a channel and the rim further comprises a sealing member fitted within the channel to seal the rim onto the flange.

23. (original) The underdrain block of claim 19 wherein the locking means comprises a rim sized to interlock with the rim.

24. (original) The underdrain block of claim 19 wherein the bottom of the lid comprises one or more protrusions for anchoring the lid in the fill material.

25. (previously presented) An underdrain block for a filter system, the underdrain block including a top surface defining an opening for receiving fill material, the top surface forming a ridge surrounding the opening, the ridge comprising a flange perpendicular to the top surface and directed downward into the opening, and a non-porous lid comprising:

a top, a bottom, and a peripheral edge, the peripheral edge comprising a u-shaped rim;

the u-shaped rim comprising locking means configured to tightly fit over the flange so that the rim interlocks with the flange, the u-shaped rim defining a channel and the rim further comprising a sealing member fitted within the channel to seal the rim onto the flange;

the non-porous lid comprising a size to snap lock onto the ridge so as to tightly close the opening.

26. (original) The underdrain block of claim 25 wherein the bottom of the lid comprises one or more protrusions for anchoring the lid in the fill material.

27. (previously presented) An underdrain block for a filter system comprising:

a hollow, plastic housing;

the housing comprising a top wall, a bottom wall, and end and side walls connecting the top wall to the bottom wall, the bottom wall forming two lateral rows of support legs to provide for the passage of fluid;

the top wall defining an opening for receiving a fill material, the top wall forming a ridge surrounding the opening;

a non-porous lid for sealing the opening in the top wall, the lid comprising a top, a bottom, and a peripheral edge, the peripheral edge comprising a u-shaped rim;

the u-shaped rim comprising a locking means to tightly fit over the ridge so that the rim interlocks with the ridge;

the lid comprising a size to snap lock onto the ridge so as to seal the opening.

28 - 36. (canceled)